

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Staff

Minister – Rev. Tom Goebel
Music Director – Ron Montgomery
CCF Director – Sandra Brennan
Nursery Attendant – Alexandria Horne
Secretary – Dona Sulzmann

Office Hours

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Monday through Friday

First Christian Church
627 Paul W. Bryant Drive
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

627 Paul W. Bryant Drive
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401
(205) 758-2968
Fax (205) 758-5871
tuscfcc@bellsouth.net
www.tuscaloosafcc.org

MARCH 2012

THE EPISTLE

“The righteous shall live by faith” ~ Romans 1:17

This one text so moved the 16th century Church Reformer Martin Luther that it changed his entire spiritual life and journey. He had, as it would be later revealed, become a “new creation in Christ.” Perhaps one of the most frequent questions I am asked during the Lenten season is: “How can I deepen my spirituality?” This is a VERY important and appropriate question that deserves a moment of our time as we begin our seasonal journey to Easter, the Day of Resurrection. We all want our souls to develop a closer and deeper relationship with Christ. Remember, as I said in a sermon recently, “We don’t just have a soul: we ARE a soul. What our souls HAVE is a body.” In other words, we must place emphasis on the soul because it is everlasting, whereas the body is only temporary. Too often folks place so much emphasis on physical health that they neglect the health of their souls. Lent is a time of reflection. We are not only to reflect on our relationship with Christ but also on how we are doing with regards to combating sin and fear, while fostering joy, peace, faith and so on. The “goal of the soul,” as it were, is to increase throughout life our joy, peace, and faith, and decrease throughout life our sin, fear and other negative behaviors. This leads to greater spiritual depth and relationship with Christ: or “enhanced spirituality.” To help us on this journey we must carefully follow our “life-guide:” we need to develop and enhance our Scriptural studies. Study means to go beyond reading and move towards prayerful reflection, absorption, consideration, and meditation on the words to find ourselves in the story so that we can discover contemporary meaning for use in our spiritual journey. Some say they just don’t have the time to sit and read the Bible, or when they do they struggle with concepts and ideas. To those folks I suggest a fun introductory exercise to get started. In the morning take the Bible in your hands, close your eyes, open the Bible to any page (front, back, or middle), and place your finger on the page. Open your eyes and read the sentence or paragraph where your finger landed. Pray and meditate on that Scripture passage, then watch to see how God might use this passage in your life or open new spiritual understandings. You never know, you might find the text interesting enough to read the whole page or even the entire Biblical book! Like Martin Luther, that one text may just change your life. The depth of our spiritual journey, like most things in this world, will depend on how much time we dedicate to it. Minimal time typically leads to minimal results. So let this exercise be a launching point for a new spiritual journey and see how you grow closer to Christ in depth along your spiritual journey.

Many blessings this Lenten season, Tom



March 4 *Robert Gibson*
 Dona Sulzmann
 Ed Carson
 *Kate Matheny
 *Letitia Roberts
 Kenny Sulzmann

March 11 *Robert Gibson*
 Dona Sulzmann
 Alice Gibson
 Brandi Hewitt
 *Brenda Tanner
 *Gary Tanner

March 18 *Robert Gibson*
 Dona Sulzmann
 *Allison Barger
 *Sandra Brennan
 Joe Duncan
 Brinley Hocutt

March 25 *Robert Gibson*
 Dona Sulzmann
 Jon Atkinson
 Kim Farish
 *Rosa Jennings
 *Steve Jennings

Liturgist: Robert Gibson

*communion preparation

If you are unable to serve on your assigned Sunday, please call Brinley Hocutt at 292-7268.



Hope Circle will meet at **9:30 am March 5th** at the church.

Serendipity Circle will meet at **5:30 on March 20th**.

Circle I will meet at **10:00 am March 13th** at the church.

The next **General CWF** meeting will be **April 16th** at the church (covered dish) at **6:00 pm**. Serendipity Circle is hosting. All women of the church are invited.

CMF Breakfast
8:00 am
March 11th



The Regional Men's Retreat will be March 10th-11th. Registration materials are in the narthex. This year's theme is "Ministering to the 'Least of These'."



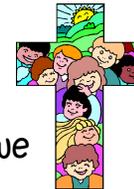
Beverly Berryhill
Letitia Roberts
Caver Sigler
Joan Woody
George Hunton
 (Brenda Montgomery's father)

The **MEN'S CHILI COOKING CONTEST** will be Saturday, March 3rd, 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We need cooks, so contact the church office soon if you would like to be a chef. The winner will receive a prize! At the



chili supper, the guests (and many will be invited) will be given an opportunity to make a financial donation to the East Tuscaloosa Community Soup Bowl. Join us in an evening of good food, fun and help support a worthy cause.

Christian Children's Fellowship (CCF) meets Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 pm, in the Bowers Fellowship Hall. For children in 5th grade or younger, we have stories, Bible lessons, crafts, games, good snacks, and lots of fun and fellowship!



It's time to start thinking about a new church directory. We want to make our own directory this time, pictures and all. If you have any changes in your family info, i.e., address, phones (including cell), or anything that might be different from the information in the last book, let me know. Thanks for your help.
 Dona Sulzmann

YOU MIGHT BE A DISCIPLE IF...

- ...your elder prays about wine, but the deacon serves you grape juice.
- ...you don't want the sermon to last more than 20 minutes so you can beat the Baptists to the restaurant.
- ...your airplane seatmate sees your lapel pin and asks you why you're against drinking wine.

Our CWF groups are busy! Circle I is taking desserts to Hospice once a week, and Serendipity has been visiting and taking goodie bags to shut-ins.



We still have T-shirts that have not been picked up or paid for! If you think you ordered a shirt and have never received it, please contact Sandra Brennan, 886-4273 or see her at church. If you want a shirt but did not order one, we may have some that are unclaimed.



...Cindy & Buddy Harris along with Buddy's brother and sister-in-law Robert

& Kay were in Mobile for Mardi Gras festivities. They observed 7 parades—and never left their viewing spot! Cindy & Buddy also attended a ball.



...Tom & Sue Goebel attended a conference in Miami, FL. Tom's comment on the trip, "That was our first and LAST trip to Miami!" ...It was great to have Nisha Warbington fill our pulpit during Tom's absence. Also in worship that Sunday was her husband Daren and their 2 youngest, Allie Rae & Addie Lou.

...Martha & Sherrill Smalley enjoyed their annual Valentine trip to Gatlinburg.

...Gary & Brenda Tanner also traveled to Gatlinburg for a few days.

...Robert & Alice Gibson went to Atlanta to see Stephen's girlfriend Diany Rodriguez perform in the play "The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls."

...Ashlynn Christian visited Dona & Kenny Sulzmann for 2 weeks. After her visit,



they (her parents Jaime & Danny Christian, Dona's mother Faye Kirkland and aunt Alice Irving) enjoyed a cruise to Belize and Mexico.

...Congratulations to Ron Montgomery and the Crimson Pride Barbershop Harmony



Chorus on their successful concert/show. It was a fabulous evening of music and they sounded GREAT!!

...Victoria Gibson (Robert & Alice's granddaughter; Michael & Suzanna's daughter) placed in the top 10 at

Riverside Middle School Beauty Walk in January; she also won 3rd place in the Northport Valentine Beauty Pageant (10-12 yr division).



...Congratulations to proud grandparents Eleanora & Dave

Mauritson! Son Eric and wife Lydia welcomed Luke David into the world on November 13th.

Our church hosted a wonderful volunteer mission team from 4 churches in Ohio. Muir & Gordon Steward's daughter Beth Voynovich was here with this group. Mardi Gras was the



theme of a pancake dinner for our guests on Shrove Tuesday prepared and served by Billie Brennan, Kathy Mason, Helen Gibson, Rosa Jennings, Woodie Payne, Sandra Brennan and Kim Farish. The mission team also joined us for the Ash Wednesday service.

The Lenten Lunches started the end of February. Each Wednesday until Easter we will enjoy lunch beginning at 12 noon. Come join us for fellowship and good food, followed by a devotion by Pastor Tom on "The Twelve Stations of Christ" beginning at 12:20. We will finish in time for you to get back to work for the afternoon!



If you are interested in preparing one of the lunch meals, please contact Billie Brennan or sign the sheet in the narthex. Thanks!

Hope Circle will be collecting Labels for Education as one of their projects. Please help by saving labels from Campbell's Soup products and cereal boxes. There will be a basket in the narthex for these items.



The CWF will sponsor a rummage sale April 21st and need your help. We are asking for good usable, gently used items (priced to sell!), children's clothing, costume jewelry, and household items. (Please--NO adult clothing or computer hardware!) Start gathering up those things that you no longer use but might be useful to someone else. Keep in mind that there will be a Disciple Volunteer group coming in on Sunday, so ALL items will have to be cleared out of the Fellowship Hall Saturday afternoon after the sale. The proceeds from this sale will go toward CWF projects.

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1	2 Coleman Berryhill	3  Bowers Hall-6:00
4 Sisters Study 2:00 Alison Phelps <i>Mims/Emily Roberts</i>	5 Hope Circle 9:30	6	7 Lenten Lunch - noon CCF 5:30 Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00	8	9	10 Regional Men's Retreat
11 CMF Breakfast 8:00 Sisters Study 2:00 Mission Council 6:00 → Laura Morrison	12	13 Circle I 10:00	14 Lenten Lunch - noon CCF 5:30 Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00 Randi Coleman Joan Woody	15	16	17  St. Patrick's Day
18 Sisters Study 2:00	19	20 Serendipity 5:30	21 Soup Kitchen 9:30 Lenten Lunch - noon CCF 5:30 Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00 Virginia McElroy	22	23 Buddy Farish	24
25 Sisters Study 2:00 <i>Buddy/Cindy Harris</i>	26 Martha Smalley	27	28 Lenten Lunch - noon Circle of Prayer 6:30 Choir 7:00 <i>Mike/Jeannie Largin</i>	29 Patti Sigler Susie Sparks <i>Michael/Suzanna Gibson</i>	30 Pat Coleman	31